

## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

# **Press Release**

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Statement on the Death of Wayne Shackelford:**

“Georgia transportation lost its “Gentle Giant” today with the passing of former Commissioner Wayne Shackelford. For many years now, he had confronted a debilitating illness with great strength, character and grace.

“Anyone who ever met ‘Shack,’ as he was affectionately known, was bound to remember the occasion; they could be certain he would as well, along with their name and the nature of the conversation. Following his successful career in local government and the private sector, Mr. Shackelford became Commissioner of the Georgia DOT in 1991 and served in that role until mid-2000. He guided the Department’s preparation for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. The Department’s Transportation Management Center, which he was instrumental in creating, is named in his honor, as is the new Interstate 85/SR 316 interchange in his own Gwinnett County.

“Among his multitude of honors, Commissioner Shackelford served as President of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) in 1993 and President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in 1995. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA) from May, 1998 through April, 1999.

“Even after he left the Department to return to the private sector, Commissioner Shackelford remained a vibrant force and advocate for transportation issues in the state.

“He was a great man and a great friend. I will miss his wise counsel.

“The Department extends its profound sympathies to his beloved wife, Anna, their three children, and their grandchildren.”

Vance C. Smith, Jr.